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## MARTHA TOMLIN CROWDER 1839—1917

Mrs. Martha Tomlin Crowder after five days' illness passed away at 5 a.m., Monday, January 29, 1917, at the residence, 926 West Governor Street, Springfield, Illinois, aged 77 years, 4 months and 18 days.

Surviving are two sons, William and Edward; two daughters, Mrs. John E. George and Miss Louise Crowder; six grand-children, also five sisters, Mrs. Louise Quinn of San Diego, California; Mrs. Lydia Alkire of Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Harriet Reed of Holton, Kansas; Mrs. Caroline McClung of Wichita, Kansas; Mrs. Rachel Rankin, Portland, Oregon, and one brother, James Tomlin, of Salida, Colorado.

Martha Tomlin was born September 11, 1839, at the Tomlin homestead, one mile northwest of Pleasant Plains, and lived in that community for a number of years. She was converted when about twelve years of age, and was one of the charter members of Bethel M. E. Church of that vicinity.

Martha Tomlin graduated at Illinois Woman's College, Jacksonville, Illinois, in 1861.

On January 8, 1874, she was married at Jacksonville to Thomas Jefferson Crowder. Mr. Crowder died at their home in Springfield, February 22, 1911.

In later years she became a member of the Presbyterian Church and was also an ardent worker for the W. C. T. U. Her pastor, Dr. George T. Gunter, said Mrs. Crowder, after a long, consecrated and beautifully heroic Christian life, during which she rendered a faithful and fruitful service to her Master, was called home the other day to see her Lord face to face. All who knew her will miss her and sorrow over her being away, but since "to die is to gain, and it is better farther on" we will rejoice in the midst of our tears and thank God for the hope that comes through Jesus Christ.

The funeral service was held at the residence at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 31, 1917, and she was laid to rest in Oak Ridge Cemetery, to await the final resurrection.

Thomas J. Crowder and his wife, Martha Tomlin Crowder, were early members of the Illinois State Historical Society. They were believers in the value of helpfulness and did their part in the building of the Society and assisting in its activities. They were loyal and valued members of the Association.